

When I complete this oversight investigation, I will submit a final report to Secretary of Defense Panetta. It will contain findings and recommendations for the Secretary's consideration. To facilitate this process, I ask Deputy Inspector General Halbrooks to answer all my outstanding questions promptly. In other words, I am getting tired of being jerked around.

I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING SAMUEL WILSON THOMAS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to a respected historian of my hometown of Louisville, KY, who has sadly passed away. Samuel Wilson Thomas died on Thursday, October 4, of this year, at his home at the age of 74.

Louisville is a wonderful city, and I am always pleased to sing its praises. This is much easier to do thanks to the work of Mr. Thomas. He wrote 18 books touching on every corner of Louisville history, from the famous Churchill Downs to the legendary Cave Hill Cemetery, from Oxmoor Farm to Crescent Hill.

Sam Thomas received his bachelor's degree and Ph.D. from the University of Louisville. He is best known for serving as the first director and curator of Locust Grove, a National Historic Landmark that was the home to George Rogers Clark, the founder of Louisville. Locust Grove also hosted three U.S. Presidents—Monroe, Jackson, and Taylor—and was a stopping point for famed explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark upon their return from their expedition to the Pacific.

The log cabin at Locust Grove was Sam Thomas's home for two decades. In his role as director and curator, he oversaw Locust Grove's restoration with careful attention paid to the preservation of its history.

Mr. Thomas also taught at the University of Louisville, edited numerous local publications, and published a host of articles. His role in preserving the history of Louisville and the legacy of its famous inhabitants was tremendous and will not be forgotten.

I know my colleagues join me in expressing gratitude for Sam Thomas's body of work and in extending sympathies to his family, including his wife, Debbie; his brother and sister-in-law, Jim and Susanna; his niece, Sheena McGuffey; his nephews, Ian Thomas, Mason Thomas, and Cas McGuffey; and many other beloved friends and family members.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that an obituary for Mr. Samuel Wilson Thomas printed in the Louisville Courier-Journal be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Louisville Courier-Journal, Oct. 6, 2012]

SAMUEL WILSON THOMAS, 74, DIED THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2012, AT HIS HOME

Born on January 21, 1938, in Chestnut Hill, Penn., Sam moved to Louisville shortly after his graduation from Chestnut Hill Academy. He received his B.A. (1960) and Ph.D. (1964) in chemistry from the University of Louisville.

Although Sam taught for a short time at UofL, his life and career were forever changed when he began his long association with Locust Grove, overseeing its restoration and serving as its first director and curator. The log house there was his home for nearly two decades.

Sam is the author of 18 seminal books on Kentucky topics, all meticulously researched and primarily focused on Louisville: its neighborhoods, landmarks, and corporations.

His most recent work includes histories of St. Matthews, Anchorage, the Cherokee Triangle, Crescent Hill, Oxmoor Farm, Cave Hill Cemetery, and Churchill Downs, but the project closest to his heart was an overview of early Louisville architecture.

He edited numerous publications for the Courier-Journal's book division and published many articles on a host of Kentucky subjects. He also co-authored with his brother Jim "The Simple Spirit," a pictorial history of Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill.

He was also involved in the restoration of the Jefferson County Courthouse, the Ferguson Mansion headquarters of The Filson Historical Society, and the 1785 log house at Oxmoor. He was a founder of Preservation Alliance and the George Rogers Clark Press, a member of the Louisville Landmarks and Preservation Districts Commission, and archivist of Jefferson County.

Sam is survived by his wife, Debbie; brother, Jim (Susanna); niece, Sheena McGuffey; and nephews, Ian Thomas, Mason Thomas and Cas McGuffey.

Sam chose cremation and requested that no funeral or memorial service be held. The family will receive friends from 4 to 7 p.m. Monday, October 8, 2012, in the Audubon Room at Locust Grove, 561 Blankenbaker Lane.

Memorial gifts may be directed to Locust Grove or to the University of Louisville Photographic Archives, to which Sam gave his collection of photographs and research materials.

TRIBUTE TO JOE LILES

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I stand before you today to pay tribute to a man who has spent a significant amount of his life working for the Kentucky Rural Water Association and the

National Rural Water Association. Mr. Joe Liles helped in founding the Kentucky Rural Water Association in 1979. He has also been an employee of the National Rural Water Association since 1999, when he was first elected to the Board of Directors.

He has progressed through numerous positions within the association, and as of September 2010, Mr. Liles has been President of the National Rural Water Association.

I would like to congratulate Mr. Liles on his achievements. I would also like to acknowledge the Kentucky Rural Water Association Leadership Award that Mr. Liles was given in 2008. He was presented this prestigious award based on his exemplary service, leadership, and commitment to Kentucky's water and wastewater utilities. Most recently, Mr. Liles received the 2012 Man of the Year Award from the National Rural Water Association.

After 38 years of dedication to the water systems of Warren, Butler, and Simpson counties, Mr. Liles retired in 2005 from his managerial position. However, he currently serves as the utilities' community and government relations assistant.

Mr. Joe Liles resides in Bowling Green, KY, with his wife, Sally, and his four daughters. He is a grandfather to six. Liles earned his bachelor's degree with an area of concentration in management from Western Kentucky University.

Mr. Liles has shown tremendous loyalty, devotion, and consideration, not only to his job and career, but also to the Bluegrass State. I appreciate all that Mr. Liles has done for the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Mr. President, the National Rural Water Association recently published an article about the accomplishments of Mr. Joe Liles, and I would ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed as follows:

[From the National Rural Water Association Newsletter, Oct. 23, 2012]

The National Rural Water Association recently honored Joe Liles as the 2012 Man of the Year. A long-standing leader in rural water, Liles was honored during the Tribute to Excellence awards ceremony, held on Sept. 24th in Nashville, Tenn. Joe Liles, outgoing NRWA president and founding member of the Kentucky Rural Water Association board of directors, has served in numerous positions on the boards for both Kentucky Rural Water and NRWA.

The Man of the Year Award is a prestigious award that recognizes individuals for their many years of exemplary service, leadership, and commitment to our nation's water and wastewater utilities. Although Mr. Liles retired as manager of the Warren, Butler and Simpson counties water systems in 2005 after 38 years, he currently serves as the utilities' community and government relations assistant.

Kentucky Rural Water congratulates Joe on this esteemed honor!

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, now that the elections are over, I renew my call

for all of us to come together to do what is right and to act in the interests of the American people. We should come together to avert the fiscal cliff and the automatic cuts that will otherwise occur in domestic and defense spending.

I am hopeful that, working together, Democrats and Republicans can come to an agreement so that we can avoid sequestration. The automatic cuts from sequestration would further damage our Federal courts. According to the sequestration report released by the Office of Management and Budget, the sequestration would lead to a \$555 million reduction below fiscal year 2012 levels for our independent judiciary. The impending across-the-board cuts under sequestration would reduce Federal court allotments to fiscal year 2006 levels, despite considerably higher caseloads. The impact of sequestration on Federal court operations nationwide could be devastating. It could result in the Federal courts eliminating as many as 6,300 employees, about one-third of their staff, or implementing court employees furloughs for more than a month system-wide.

If we do not find a solution to both the vacancy crisis and the threat to judicial resources, it will be harder for Americans to obtain justice in our Federal courts. Our courts are already overburdened, and the sequester will result in cuts that will force courts to hear fewer cases, which means that court proceedings will be delayed even longer. This will be especially damaging in civil cases, where there are already over 40,000 cases that have been pending for more than 3 years. Sequestration cuts could even result in the suspension of civil jury trials. Even more alarming is what is at stake in the criminal context. If probation and pretrial services offices are downsized or closed, Federal courts and their staff will be unable to properly supervise thousands of persons under pretrial release and convicted felons released from Federal prisons. It is critical, then, that we work together.

And we should complete the task of considering the judicial nominees who have already had their hearings before the Senate recessed for the elections. There is no justification for holding up final Senate action on these judicial nominations. These are not judgeships that Republicans can claim they wish to keep open in order to be filled by nominees from President Obama's successor next year. The American people have decided that President Obama will continue to lead our Nation. In accordance with the will of the American people, it is time for the obstruction to end and for the Senate to complete action on these nominees so that they may serve the American people without further delay. Even Senate Republicans' contorted application of the Thurmond Rule can no longer serve as any sort of rationale for inaction. Delay for delay's sake is wrong and should end. The Senate should start by

acting on the 19 judicial nominations that have been approved by the Judiciary Committee and have been awaiting final Senate action without further delay.

Two months ago, the Senate recessed without taking action on 19 judicial nominations. All were supported by their home State Senators, Republican and Democratic. Almost all had bipartisan support. I cannot remember a time when the Senate refused to act on nominees with such bipartisan support. There was no precedent for the filibuster of Robert Bacharach of Oklahoma to the Tenth Circuit and that filibuster should end. After Senator COBURN failed to vote for cloture to end the filibuster of the Bacharach nomination last July, he indicated that he expected Judge Bacharach to be confirmed before the end of the year if President Obama was reelected. The junior Senator from Texas also indicated that the circuit judges would be voted on if President Obama was reelected. Well, now that the people of this country have spoken, we should be working together to approve these judicial nominees so they can provide justice for the American people.

I urge Senate Republicans to come together and work with us to consider these judicial nominees without further delay. They should agree to debate and then to let the Senate vote on the nominations of Judge Patty Shwartz of New Jersey to the Third Circuit, Richard Taranto to the Federal Circuit, William Kayatta of Maine to the First Circuit, Robert Bacharach of Oklahoma to the Tenth Circuit, and the district court nominees from Connecticut, Maryland, Florida, Oklahoma, Michigan, California, New York, Pennsylvania, and Illinois. I am also working to have the Judiciary Committee complete its consideration of five more judicial nominees who had their hearing in September. With the confirmation of these nominees, we can eliminate the backlog here in the Senate and take a significant step toward filling a good portion of the judicial vacancies that have been plaguing our courts, including filling over a dozen judicial emergency vacancies.

The president of the Hispanic National Bar Association wrote a letter to the Senate Leaders in September saying: "The fact that Congress is adjourning without confirming these candidates is of great concern, and is a disservice to the Federal Courts and the people they serve." He was right. Now that the election is over, let us come together as the Senate of the United States and make progress on behalf of the American people.

The New York Times noted in an editorial last month entitled "Politics and the Courts" that: "During the Obama years, nominees presenting no ideological threat have been held up in the Republicans' campaign of partisan attack and obstruction—even against trial judges. * * * The holdups have cost Americans dearly—in justice de-

layed (it now generally takes two years to get a federal civil trial) and justice denied." Now that the election is over, let us do what we can to mitigate the damage and move forward.

The number of judicial vacancies has, again, risen above 80. I have heard from judges around the country whose courts have vacancies. They are working hard to keep their courts functioning, but they need help to ensure that all Americans have access to courts and to justice. Recently, Professor Carl Tobias summed up the vacancy crisis that has been plaguing us for the last four years. Professor Tobias is right, and we need to expeditiously confirm our judicial nominees so they can deliver justice for the American people. I ask consent that his full article in *The Hill*, entitled, "Obstruction in Senate Taking Its Toll on the Courts," appear in the *RECORD* at the conclusion of my remarks.

We can begin to help address the vacancy crisis by confirming the 19 nominees who are currently waiting for final Senate action. The four circuit court nominees have each been waiting at least 5 months for a vote. One has been stalled for more than 8 months. The 15 district court nominees have all been waiting at least 3 months, with some stalled for as long as 7 months.

The Republican Senator from Pennsylvania wrote a letter to the Majority leader and Senator MCCONNELL asking that the two nominees for the Middle District of Pennsylvania be considered. I want to see those nominees, as well as the dozen whose Senate votes have been delayed even longer, and all the judicial nominees who have had a hearing, acted upon by the Senate.

The Senate should not continue down the path of unprecedented obstruction and delay. President Obama had not sought to pick an ideological fight with the Senate on judicial nominees as his predecessor had done. By way of example, the Republican Senators from Oklahoma have said that they support Robert Bacharach, and the Republican Senators from Maine strongly support William Kayatta. It is unprecedented to have this many consensus judicial nominees not acted upon before the election recess in a presidential election year.

The American people deserve better, and I know the Senate can do better. After the midterm election in 2002, Senate Democrats worked with Senate Republicans to confirm 20 of President Bush's judicial nominees in 1 week, including 18 in just 1 day. Again, in 2010, the Senate proceeded to confirm 19 judicial nominees during the lameduck session after the election. Unfortunately, Republican delays in 2010 had backlogged 38 judicial nominees and the confirmations of 19 went only halfway to what we should have done.

When Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush were President, Senate Democrats cleared the calendar of all but the most controversial and extreme ideological judicial

nominations. The Senate needs to be allowed to vote on President Obama's judicial nominees now so that our Federal courts are better able to function and fulfill the fundamental guarantee of providing access to justice. I hope that now that President Obama has been reelected, Senate Republicans will work with us to fill these longstanding judicial vacancies. The American people deserve no less.

When an injured plaintiff sues to help cover the cost of his or her medical expenses, or when two small business owners disagree over a contract, they should not have to wait years for a court to resolve their dispute. Americans are rightfully proud of our legal system and its promise of access to justice and speedy trials. This promise is embedded in our Constitution. When overburdened courts make it hard to keep this promise, the Senate should work in a bipartisan manner to help.

I ask unanimous consent that the letters to which I referred be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

HISPANIC NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION,
Washington, DC, September 25, 2012.

Hon. HARRY REID,
Senate Majority Leader,
Washington, DC.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Republican Leader,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS REID AND MCCONNELL: On behalf of the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA), which represents the interests of the 100,000 Hispanic attorneys, judges, and law professors in the United States and Puerto Rico, we write expressing our concern that Congress is adjourning without confirming the remaining Latino nominees and HNBA endorsed nominees pending on the Senate Executive Calendar. As a bar association, one of our greatest priorities is to advocate for a diverse judiciary and legal profession, and we believe that having a judiciary that is reflective of the citizenry should be one of Congress' priorities.

Fernando Olguin and Jesus Bernal, who have been nominated for seats in the Central District of California, and William Kayatta, who has been nominated to the First Circuit in Maine, are all highly qualified, non-controversial candidates with bipartisan support who were voted out of the Senate Judiciary Committee by voice. Despite their qualifications and the lack of any substantive opposition to their nominations, they have been pending on the Senate calendar for months—Mr. Olguin and Mr. Bernal for over two months, and Mr. Kayatta for over five months—waiting to be confirmed. This is especially concerning considering both Mr. Bernal and Mr. Olguin are nominated to seats that have been deemed judicial emergencies, and Mr. Kayatta is nominated for the First Circuit. The fact that Congress is adjourning without confirming these candidates is of great concern, and is a disservice to the Federal Courts and the people they serve.

It is of utmost importance for the operational capacity and overall integrity of our judicial system that we appoint and confirm quality and experienced individuals to serve in the Federal judiciary in a timely manner. Given the number of judicial emergencies and growing caseloads across the country, the need to fill vacancies efficiently and ex-

pediently has become paramount. It is of vital importance that qualified, non-controversial nominees are confirmed as quickly as possible. With that, we again urge your consideration of the Latino nominees and HNBA endorsed nominees currently pending on the Senate Calendar.

Sincerely,

PETER M. REYES, Jr.,
National President, Hispanic National
Bar Association.

[From the New York Times, Oct. 16, 2012]

POLITICS AND THE COURTS

The winner of the presidential election will have scores of federal judgeships to fill and the chance to shape the courts—even aside from potential Supreme Court vacancies should one or more of the current justices retire.

After a slow start, the Obama administration picked up the pace in filling judgeships, but it will end up with more vacancies on Election Day than the day the president took office. Currently, 32 positions, considered “judicial emergencies” by court administrators, are unfilled, creating heavy workloads for judges on those courts.

On the federal appeals courts, the final arbiters on all but the tiny percentage of cases decided by the Supreme Court, there are now 14 judgeships open out of 179 total seats. With about six judges a year taking senior status, working only part time, the next president could have as many as 40 appellate openings to fill by the end of 2016.

On the trial courts, which resolve around 325,000 cases a year, six times the number of appeals court cases, there are now 62 vacancies out of 677 positions.

Much of the problem, of course, has been the broken confirmation process in the Senate, where Republicans have used the filibuster to block judicial nominees for no reason except to prevent President Obama from filling the seats. In the next Congress, the Senate should ensure every nominee an up-or-down vote within 90 days.

The United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, one of the nation's most important courts, has suffered particularly in this process, with three unfilled seats and no judge confirmed for the court since 2006.

Politicization has also crept into the process for approving district court nominees. In the 101st Congress in 1989 and 1990, 96 percent of the district court nominees picked by President George H. W. Bush were confirmed, and the confirmation process took on average just 77 days. Twenty years later, only 56 percent of President Obama's nominees were confirmed and the process took on average 174 days.

During the Obama years, nominees presenting no ideological threat have been held up in the Republicans' campaign of partisan attack and obstruction—even against trial judges whose decisions are rarely ideological and can be appealed.

The holdups have cost Americans dearly—in justice delayed (it now generally takes two years to get a federal civil trial) and justice denied. It is time to adopt a more efficient, less political approach to district court confirmations. The courts must be brought to full strength so they can meet the demands for justice. The next president and the new Senate should make reforming the confirmation process a paramount priority.

[The Hill's Congress Blog, Oct. 31, 2012]

OBSTRUCTION IN THE SENATE TAKES ITS TOLL ON COURTS

(By Carl Tobias)

Halloween is the perfect occasion for analyzing scary federal judicial selection with

three judges assuming senior status on October 31. The bench experiences 83 vacancies in the 858 appellate and district judgeships. The openings first spiked to 90 in August 2009 and have since remained near ten percent. These empty seats are ghost-like apparitions that do nothing to resolve huge caseloads. Thus, President Barack Obama must promptly nominate, and the Senate expeditiously confirm, lower court nominees, or the nation will confront the nightmare of a judiciary that cannot deliver justice.

Since 1987, Republican and Democratic accusations, countercharges and paybacks have haunted selection mainly because of divided government. Democrats now control the White House and the Senate. However, the party should continue cooperating with Republicans to reduce these counterproductive dynamics because the process has stopped until the November lame duck session.

President Obama has vigorously consulted with Republican and Democratic senators from states where vacancies materialized before actual nominations. Obama has proffered uncontroversial nominees, of even temperament, who are smart, ethical, diligent and independent and diverse in terms of ethnicity, gender and ideology.

Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), the Judiciary Committee chairman, has rapidly conducted hearings and votes, condemning (sending) nominees to unending nights of the living dead on the floor where many languished over months. For example, in late September, the Senate confirmed two nominees, although it could easily have voted on another 19 nominees with committee approval. Indeed, the Senate recessed without considering any of those well qualified nominees, most of whom the committee reported absent substantive opposition, because the GOP refused to vote.

Republicans should stop their tricks and treat the process more cooperatively. The primary bottleneck has been the floor. Senator Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), the minority leader, has played the role of Dracula, sucking the lifeblood out of qualified nominees' candidacies by rarely agreeing to final votes. Even the dreaded Ninth Circuit nominee Goodwin Liu—whom McConnell and his colleagues outrageously characterized as the Second Coming of Earl Warren and refused any vote—has proved to be a remarkably mainstream California Supreme Court Justice. Most problematic has been Republican rejection of votes on noncontroversial strong nominees, inaction that violates Senate customs. When the chamber has ultimately voted, it has approved many nominees unanimously or by substantial majorities.

The 179 appellate judgeships, 15 of which are open, are crucial because the dozen circuits are courts of last resort in their regions for 99 percent of appeals. Obama has proposed seven exceptional nominees, and he should keep working with Leahy and Senator Harry Reid (D-Nev.), the majority leader, who arranges floor votes, and their Republican counterparts to facilitate smooth confirmation while nominating strong candidates for the eight openings that lack nominees. On June 13, the GOP leadership invoked the “Thurmond Rule,” which masqueraded as a binding mandate, saying it would oppose votes on all appellate nominees until the election. Because this notion does not apply to excellent, consensus nominees, like First, Tenth, and Federal Circuit nominees William Kayatta, Robert Bacharach and Richard Taranto, the Senate must vote on them soon.

The 679 district judgeships, 68 of which are open, are essential, as district judges conduct federal trials and ascertain the facts, while appeals courts uphold 80 percent of

lower court decisions. Obama has nominated 27 excellent individuals and must quickly suggest candidates for the 41 vacancies without nominees. For its part, the Senate must swiftly confirm nominees.

The vacancies in 83 judgeships resulting from GOP obstruction have, like Dr. Frankenstein, created monstrous dockets that jeopardize expeditious, inexpensive and fair case resolution. Thus, President Obama must promptly nominate, and senators rapidly confirm, numerous superb judges, so the courts can deliver justice. Boo!

TRIBUTE TO LLOYD GOODROW

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today I am proud to call to the Senate's attention the record of accomplishment of a military officer who has retired after 33 years of outstanding service to the Vermont Air and Army National Guard.

LTC Lloyd Goodrow served five Adjutant Generals. He distinguished himself in the position of State Public Affairs Officer. Through diligence, honesty, and integrity he forged a strong and straightforward relationship with the media and the Vermont Congressional Delegation.

In the years after the attacks of September 11, 2001, Lieutenant Colonel Goodrow provided strong, meaningful support to deployed troops and their families. He helped Vermonters to make a human connection to the Guard during this difficult time. His empathy and deep understanding of the tragedy and suffering of Gold Star families not only aided those families in the healing process but left a lasting impression on Lloyd.

Lloyd is an outstanding family man. Marcelle and I are fortunate to count as friends Lloyd, his wife Margo, and their son Daniel. Daniel has been recognized at the State and national level for his swimming in the Special Olympics. Like his parents, he has been a strong advocate for people with special needs.

In recognition of Lieutenant Colonel Goodrow's service to our country and to our State of Vermont, I ask that an article, "Spokesman for Vt. National Guard retires," written by Matt Ryan in the November 1, 2012, edition of the Burlington Free Press, be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[The Burlington Free Press, Nov. 1, 2012]

GOODROW REFLECTS ON 33-YEAR CAREER

(By Matt Ryan)

Lt. Col. Lloyd Goodrow said during his tenure as spokesman for the Vermont National Guard, he has considered reporters and soldiers alike his colleagues.

"It's easier if you have a relationship with the media, and you understand where each other came from," Goodrow said. "Have we always agreed? No. Have we agreed to disagree? Yes."

Goodrow, 58, of Essex Junction retired at midnight Wednesday, ending a 33-year career with the Vermont National Guard. He said his next order of business is to find a new job.

"Today's bittersweet," he said earlier on Halloween. "I walk out of here tonight at midnight. The joke is I'm turning into a pumpkin."

The University of Vermont graduate worked much of his career with the Guard in public affairs. He typed his first news release in 1987, about a man who built a cheap device that could detect infrared light for the U.S. military. The story circulated nationally for two years, he said.

Goodrow has since spoken on behalf of soldiers who deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan and returned home to rebuild Vermont in the wake of Tropical Storm Irene.

"The hardest thing was dealing with the deaths of soldiers," he said. "The first time I looked into the eyes of a gold star mother, it changed my life forever."

That was the mother of Vermont Army Guard Spec. Scott McLaughlin, a 29-year-old husband and father of two from Hardwick who was shot and killed by a sniper in Iraq in 2005.

Goodrow said he helped the family gather photos of McLaughlin for the media and later convinced them to allow reporters in the church for the funeral services.

"The media is there to represent the community, and to help the community as well," he said. "I reminded them that you help the community mourn."

Goodrow said he leaves media relations in the good hands of Capt. Chris Gookin. Gookin stood to lead the Guard's public affairs office upon Goodrow's retirement.

"It's important that the public knows who we are, what we represent and what we can do for them," Goodrow said. "Because we belong to the people. We belong to the public."

Goodrow's retirement party is scheduled for noon Thursday at the American Legion in Colchester. His formal retirement ceremony is slated for 2 p.m. Sunday at the Green Mountain Armory at Camp Johnson.

"I really have been blessed," he said. "I've been part of a group that's been second to none."

RECOGNIZING ETHAN ALLEN FURNITURE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, one of Vermont's premier businesses is celebrating its 80th anniversary this year. Ethan Allen Furniture has come to represent the very highest standards and quality that Vermont has to offer.

In 1932, two brothers-in-law from New York City established a wholesale company that sold small housewares. Four years later, they purchased a bankrupt furniture factory in Beecher Falls, VT, and began manufacturing early American furniture branded as the Ethan Allen line. They eventually renamed the company after Ethan Allen, a Revolutionary War hero who played an integral role in America's fight for independence and Vermont's admission to the Union as the 14th State.

Over the years, Ethan Allen Furniture has grown into one of the world's most prominent furniture makers and interior design specialists, with over 300 stores worldwide and manufacturing centers around the globe.

This world-renowned company has remained close to its Vermont roots and continues to employ many Vermonters because of their unique talent and experience in finely crafted furniture. It was great to see that the

company's president, CEO, and chairman, Farooq Kathwari, recently visited with employees at the Orleans, VT, facility to celebrate the company's anniversary and its return to profitability.

I congratulate Ethan Allen Furniture on this monumental anniversary, and I wish them much success in the future.

I ask unanimous consent that the September 26, 2012, Caledonian Record article entitled "Ethan Allen Celebrates 80 Years" be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Caledonian Record, Sept. 26, 2012]

ETHAN ALLEN CELEBRATES 80 YEARS

(By Robin Smith)

Ethan Allen CEO, President and Chairman Farooq Kathwari praised his employees in Vermont Tuesday afternoon and announced performance raises as part of the company's 80th anniversary.

Ethan Allen plants in Orleans and Beecher Falls are profitable now for the first time since the Great Recession, Kathwari told employees who gathered in a plant storage facility at the Orleans facility to eat cake and celebrate.

The company wanted to begin the big anniversary celebration in Vermont where it began 80 years ago in Beecher Falls.

This morning, Kathwari and Ethan Allen officials will ring the bell to open the New York Stock Exchange. And in the next several weeks, the company will unveil a new line of American furniture and launch a marketing campaign, Kathwari said.

The company converted its operation in Orleans and elsewhere from mass production to custom-manufacturing over a year and a half, he said. The profitability and efficiency in Orleans is up 30 to 40 percent in the last two years, he added.

And now, instead of buying products from China, Kathwari said Ethan Allen is selling its furniture to China.

Ethan Allen received a fairly large order from China last year and has retail stores there.

"You folks will make orders for China. Think of that," he said.

"If someone had said . . . we would make lamps for China, we would have said 'That's crazy.'"

Kathwari invited a select group of company retailers, marketers, designers, board members and initial investors, plus local legislators, to a tour of the Orleans plant before he spoke to employees. Kathwari recognized long-time employees at the plant, one of whom had been at the plant for 53 years and introduced company leaders who had longevity with the company.

That's how Ethan Allen has survived 80 years and grown, he said, because experience and longevity allows nimble adaptability. "To be around for 80 years, you have to by plan or by accident reinvent it," he said.

Ethan Allen survived the Great Depression, he said, and now the Great Recession.

The company kept 70 percent of its manufacturing in the U.S., Kathwari said, "which is remarkable."

The company is committed to the Orleans plant, where 320 employees make tables, chairs and other furniture that has the name of the customer on the bar code label. Each piece being manufactured in Orleans is already sold "and our people know it," Kathwari said.

The Orleans staff have tremendous experience and knowledge, the Orleans and Beecher